

## APPENDIX I

### TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

#### Off-Highway Vehicle Travel Exceptions and Allowances

The following activities would be allowed without prior permission in areas closed to motorized travel:

- Motorized cross-country travel for military, fire, search and rescue and law enforcement operations for emergency purposes.
- Motorized cross-country travel by BLM personnel, or agency contractors, performing official administrative business (ie., prescribed fire, noxious weed control, revegetation, surveying, etc.) Where possible, agency personnel performing administrative functions will place a sign or notice in the area they are working to identify for the public the function they are authorized to perform.
- Motorized cross-country travel by lessees and permittees performing administrative functions on public lands within the scope of a permit or lease. Some examples of administrative functions include, but are not limited to gas or electric utilities monitoring a utility corridor for safety conditions or normal maintenance, accessing a remote communication site for normal maintenance or repair, livestock permittees checking vegetative conditions, building or maintaining fences, delivering salt and supplements, moving livestock, checking wells or pipelines as part of the implementation of a grazing permit or lease, and scientific groups under contract for resource assessments or research. This would not preclude modifying permits or leases to limit motorized cross-country travel during further site-specific analysis to meet resource management objectives or standards and guidelines.
- Dispersed camping within 300 feet of a designated open route. Site selection must be completed by non-motorized means and accessed by the most direct route causing the least damage.

Certain other activities may be allowed on a case-by-case basis, but would require prior written permission of the Field Manager in areas closed to motorized travel. These activities might include, but would not necessarily be limited to:

- Motorized cross-country travel for non-BLM government entities on official administrative business such as noxious weed control, surveying, and animal damage control efforts. Where possible, the authorized party performing the administrative function will place a sign or notice in the area they are working to identify for the public the function they are authorized to perform.
- Motorized cross-country travel by entities requiring access to private lands, resources, or legal improvements

within or adjacent to closed or limited areas.

- Motorized cross-country travel necessary to conduct mining-related casual use activities (see 43 CFR 3809.5(1) such as claim staking, annual assessment work, and the collection of geochemical, rock, soil or minerals using hand tools.
- Motorized cross-country travel may be allowed in conjunction with personal use permits such as firewood and Christmas tree cutting if specifically provided on the permit, or identified as an area exception on the Southwest Montana Interagency Visitor/Travel Map.
- Motorized cross-country travel for big game retrieval is not allowed.

#### Motorized Route Designation Principles

The Dillon Area Travel Management Subgroup of the Western Montana Resource Advisory Council developed and used the following principles to develop the travel recommendations presented in Alternative B of the Draft RMP/EIS. BLM used the same principles when considering public comment and making adjustments to motorized route designations presented in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.

- Those routes that are open for motorized and/or non-motorized travel should be designated and signed as such;
- To determine the status of a given route, the BLM should consider environmental sensitivity and damage, weeds, wildlife habitat, enforcement concerns, and access to US Forest Service (USFS) lands;
- Riparian and sensitive areas should be protected;
- For motorized travel, loop routes are preferred to dead end routes;
- Game retrieval using motorized vehicles should be prohibited off roads;
- Except for designated play areas, motorized vehicle cross country travel is prohibited;
- Routes should be designated and signed as motorized or non-motorized;
- Motorized wheeled cross-country travel to a campsite must be limited to within 300 feet of roads and trails;
- Existing road designations may be changed pursuant to land management objectives;
- The travel management plan should include a weed mitigation program;
- The travel map should be as simple as possible;
- The travel management plan should be flexible about the location of new roads needed to provide access to new activities as long as the total road mileage is not increased; and
- BLM roads not accessible to the public should be closed except for BLM lease and administrative and emergency use.